

RESTRICTED (when complete)

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

URN

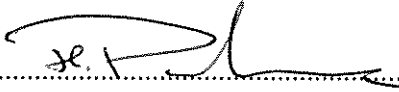
--	--	--	--

Statement of: Helen Parkinson

Age if under 18: over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: Police Officer

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature:  PS:342 (witness) Date: 13/09/2017

I am Police Sergeant Helen Parkinson of Lancashire Constabulary currently based at Bispham Police Station.

I am the Licensing Sergeant for West Division covering Blackpool, Fylde, Wyre, Lancaster and Morecambe. I have held this post since July 2016.

On Sunday 10th September 2017 I was on duty covering the Blackpool area. At 02:00hours I based myself in the CCTV room at Blackpool Central Police Station to observe the activities in the town centre as a whole. At approximately 03:30 hours I was observing some suspicious activity on Dickson road when my attention was drawn to inside Heatwave. At 03:38hours I observed a disturbance inside where the member of door staff is trying to eject someone but then many other get involved and a large fight breaks out. The doorman requires the aid of 3 others from the nearby premises of Kaos, Marios and Hot Stuff to clear the premises.

A copy of the CCTV footage has been obtained and I exhibit it as HP1747/01. I have provided copies of this footage to the Council also. The breakdown of the footage is as follows:

At 03:31- 03:35 there appears to be some kind of confrontation between two parties sat at tables in the windows.

03:35 - 03:38 - Although separate from the public order issue two people, a male and female are seen hanging around outside Heatwave. Their behaviour is very suspicious.

03:38 - 03:41 Large disturbance breaks out inside Heatwave.

As officers in the CCTV Control room have use of a police radio they were able to call up and ask for Police assistance. No other call was made to police from any party, including the staff at Heatwave.

03:43 Police arrive on scene but by this time the security staff had cleared the take-away.

Signature:  Signature Witnessed by .....

Page 1

RESTRICTED (when complete)



Had this incident not been witnessed on CCTV there would have been no record of it as no calls were made to the police.

Following this I continued to monitor the area to ensure that any perpetrators had left the area. Between 03:55 - 04:00 hours the build-up of public coming out of the licensed premises and heading for the take-aways can clearly be seen.

Whilst checking the area it was also noted that there was no security staff working at Pizza Luigi. Furthermore when I left the CCTV room and headed back to Bispham at 04:10hours I drove down Dickson Road and as I passed Pizza Luigi I stopped and looked inside. There was no security staff working.

Pizza Luigi has a condition on its licence as follows:

At any time the premises are open to the public after 03.00, the premises licence holder shall employ one SIA registered door supervisor. The supervisor shall wear reflective identification as approved by Lancashire Constabulary. On Saturday night / Sunday morning there will be two door staff on duty from 04.00 onwards.

As there was no door staff on duty the premises has breached the condition on its licence and committed an offence under section 136 (1) of The Licensing Act 2003.

*Je. J* PS1721

Signature.....*Je. J*.....PS1721.....Signature Witnessed by .....



**RESTRICTED (when complete)**

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

**Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B**

URN

Statement of: **Scott Sanders**

Age if under 18: *(if over 18 insert 'over 18')* Occupation: **Police Sergeant**

This statement (consisting of  page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature:..... (witness) Date: 30.08.2017

I am Police Sergeant 2187 Scott Sanders of the Lancashire Constabulary based in Blackpool.

I have been a Police Officer in Blackpool since 1993 and have been based in each of the three stations at Bispham, Central and South. I have also worked in various roles, all of which have been operational uniform policing.

My current role is as an Immediate Response Sergeant. I am one of three Sergeants who supervise a team of uniform Constables. I first had this position in 2007 and then moved to custody for a number of years before taking up the role again in 2014 to the present time.

The area that we cover stretches from Gynn Square in Blackpool through to the Lea Gate Public House on Blackpool Road, Preston. It includes not only Blackpool but the towns and villages of St. Annes, Lytham, Kirkham, Freckleton, Staining and Newton.

For operational security I will not disclose how many officers are where at any one time. Suffice to say that we spread the team across the geographical area in order to best meet response times for emergencies and provide reassurance to the numerous communities we police.

Policing the town centre of Blackpool has always been a challenge and I have experienced a number of Constabulary structures and interventions that have been put in place to reduce the crime and disorder that comes from a night time economy which is based on the

Signature.....Signature Witnessed by .....

**RESTRICTED (when complete)**

**RESTRICTED (when complete)**

consumption of alcohol.

The current structure is to move the shift pattern of officers working on Friday and Saturday nights resulting in an overlap of 2 shifts until the early hours. This is difficult and disruptive for the officers as it causes them to work what are additional night shifts. However it is essential as the number of officers on a single team is not sufficient to cope with the demands of the town centre.

When I first joined Lancashire Police the Blackpool town centre night time economy would mainly consist of licensed premises on Market Street and in Talbot Square. These premises would be closed by 3am and the revellers disperse shortly after.

This centre has now moved north to Queen Street and the junction of Queen Street and Dickson Road.

We now have a situation where food and drink establishments are open until the very early hours and the drunk and drugged revellers are sharing a public space with people who are going about their daily business between the hours of 5 and 7am.

I have witnessed this myself where bus drivers have to drive around drunks in the road, street sweepers working around people sat in the gutter and people stood waiting for buses trying to avoid confrontation with loud and abusive drunks.

The days of the week are now not exclusive to Friday and Saturday but also include Sunday and particularly Monday nights, into Tuesday morning (known locally as Monday Madness). These are not nights that are covered by the additional police staffing.

As I have mentioned I have a significant amount of policing experience in Blackpool and I can say that the situation developing in the Dickson Road / Queen Street area is such that it is only a matter of time before serious harm is caused to a person.

There are a huge number of variables for this to happen but the crux is the volume of drunk and drugged people in a small locality on a busy road with very limited police resources.

I am conscious that buildings and businesses are not themselves responsible for disorder, that is the people. What has been created is an environment for the crime and disorder to be more likely. This cannot be mitigated by police presence alone.

There are a number of licensed premises that I feel are responsible for the disorder that we are experiencing and these are as follows

Kaos. This has a late night licence and people leave the premises heavily under the influence of alcohol.

Heatwave (formerly Amirs) Takeaway. This premises is a magnet for missing children. We often remove vulnerable children who are in the care of the local authority from the area

Signature.....Signature Witnessed by .....

**RESTRICTED (when complete)**

**RESTRICTED (when complete)**

immediately outside and even inside this premises.

At 0500 hours on 16th July 2017 I was on duty when I removed a 13 year old boy from Heatwave. He was very young looking and had I not know then I would have put him at 10 or 11 years. I now know he is from an unsettled and difficult family setting. This together with the time of night and the heavy footfall of intoxicated adults made him very vulnerable.

I removed him to a place of safety and spoke to the premises manager Ataf Saab 22.11.1979. He told me that the child was just waiting to be served his food. I also noted that the door security officer had done nothing to prevent the childs entry or even report his presence to police.

Standing outside was another child who is regularly missing and who again is very young looking. He was mingling with intoxicated adults who had left Kaos.

We should be aware that there is always a reason children gravitate to a place. The reasons may be subtle and not threatening to the child but when explored in greater depth can be found to have other far more devious motives. An example would be giving a child money for chips or other food. It seems innocuous enough but this suggestion of friendship can be grooming and lead to serious harm to the child. The same goes for drugs, tobacco and alcohol.

I do not know if this is how the 13 year old was funding his 5am food order but it is not unheard of and we all have responsibility to protect young people.

I am not accusing any of the premises of being involved in offences against children but there is a reason they are there. Surely a young person would go to McDonalds for free Wifi and a burger ?

Heat wave regularly has customers around and inside past 5am. I suspect they take orders and receive monies prior to this time but continue preparing the orders and fail to remove customers long after this time.

Pizza Luigi. This appears to operate in a similar way Heatwave in terms of its operating hours.

Marios and Hotstuff. These are on the opposite side of the road but are magnets for those who want to eat and not leave the area. This is because the bench seating inside makes it a comfortable place to sit and eat.

All of these premises are difficult when asked to provide CCTV evidence from their systems. I have a team member who has made repeated recent requests of Marios and is still waiting for this important evidence.

Signature.....Signature Witnessed by .....

**RESTRICTED (when complete)**

**RESTRICTED (when complete)**

The combination of these premises, the late opening hours, the numbers of people who are worse the wear for drink and the limited police resources should be a cause of concern for everyone involved in creating a safer place for the residents and visitors of Blackpool.

The Police are drawn consistently into this area and this is not always due to logs being made out from the control room. Dickson Road is a main arterial route and just travelling through this area can cause officers to feel compelled to remain and provide a visible presence. Should they not remain they are aware that situations deteriorate quickly and from nuisance and disorder we can quickly be dealing with assault or other serious crime.

I have also had to bring in resources from Fleetwood, Lytham and South Shore in order to provide sufficient resilience and support for the Blackpool town centre officers. This leaves those communities being unpoliced and response times to emergencies unnecessarily aggravated. Again this is not always reflected in individual Police Resource logs as the moving of staff does not in its self require such documenting.

The late night licenses in this area have made it the go to area for the revellers who want to continue drinking alcohol until 5am and then eat food and hang around for another few hours. This is not the café culture that some may perceive. It is about drinking to excess then grabbing a kebab and chips. It is a threatening and hostile environment.

The quickest and most decisive way to combat this increasing problem is to curtail the opening hours of these premises. I understand that this will be unpopular with some but Blackpool has to decide what type of town it wants to be. The Police alone are unable to tackle this problem and we must have the support of other agencies.

Signature.....Signature Witnessed by .....

**RESTRICTED (when complete)**



RESTRICTED (when complete)

Signature.....Signature Witnessed by .....



RESTRICTED (when complete)

RESTRICTED (when complete)

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

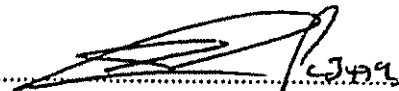
Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

URN

Statement of: PC 3459 Michael McVEIGH

Age if under 18: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Police Constable

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature:  (witness) Date: 13/08/2017

I am PC 3459 McVEIGH of the Lancashire Constabulary currently attached to Blackpool Central Police Office on Immediate Response Duties. I have an up to date officer safety training record and have been trained and authorised to carry X26 Taser since September 2009.

The following statement relates to public order issues encountered around KAOS, FLAMINGOS nightclubs and AMIR'S takeaway between the hours of 04:00 and 06:00 in Blackpool Town Centre.

As part of my role as an Immediate Response Officer in Blackpool I have regular cause to attend incidents in the town centre along with performing town centre foot patrol dealing with the night time economy.

I have 13 years operational experience and I am well versed in dealing with public order incidents, having spent two of those years working as a member of the operational support unit.

At peak times, usually weekends there have been considerable issues arising between the hours of 04:00 and 06:00 hours outside the nightclubs and takeaways situated around the junction of DICKSON ROAD and QUEENS STREET. There is a regular occurrence of a mass migration of drunk/drugged people at around 04:00 hours towards KAOS and FLAMINGOS Nightclub, due to those being the only open clubs at this time. I have observed on several occasions heavily intoxicated people being allowed entry into these clubs unchallenged.

When these nightclubs close there is again another mass influx of people out on to the street, again heavily intoxicated and under the influence. This results in large scale public order incidents/assaults and calls to vulnerable people. This in turn has a massive impact on

Signature:  Signature Witnessed by 

RESTRICTED (when complete)

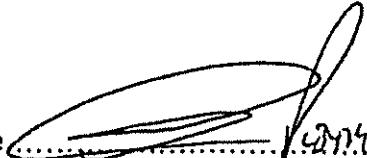



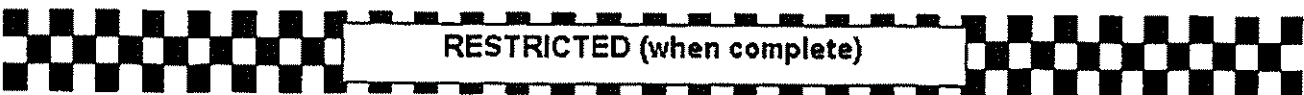


operational demand with there simply being insufficient officers to deal with the incidents created.

In addition to both KAOS and FLAMINGOS being open into the early hours I have also observed AMIR'S takeaway open and serving people past 05:00 hours in the morning, as I understand it breaching their licensing conditions. This only serves to keep people in the area and prevents the natural dispersal of crowds forming in the street.

It is my opinion that due to KAOS, FLAMINGOS and AMIR's takeaway having extended licensing hours directly contribute to public order incidents and excessive demand being placed on the emergency services. It is my view that serious consideration should be given to reducing these hours back in line with the rest of the town centre venues to combat this.

Signature  ..... Signature Witnessed by  .....



**WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

<b>Statement of:</b> Darren Woodley	<b>URN</b>		
Age (if under 18): N/A	Occupation:		

I am an immediate response officer based at Blackpool central Police Station and have been for almost 12 years. I work a variety of shifts including nights. During my time in this role I have regularly attended incidents on Dickson road and Queen Street, particularly between the hours of 02:00 and 07:00 hours, most days of the week.

The extended licensing hours of The Flamingo and Kaos clubs on Queen Street have led to disorder in the area once patrons leave the venues. Once outside they then visit one of the nearby takeaway premises before leaving the area, either by foot or taxi.

There are often flashpoint situations inside or around the takeaways where intoxicated people are gathered. As I have already stated, this can be up to 07:00 hours and sometimes beyond. I have frequently dealt with disorder in the area and members of the public have walked by on their way to work.

I have been in the area numerous times with colleagues who have attended from across the division to deal with disorder and had to disperse large groups of people from the area. This has included officers from Blackpool south and Fleetwood as well as the officers covering the town centre. I believe this is occurring because people are hanging around the takeaways rather than going home once the clubs close. Ambulances have also been called to deal with injury and intoxication.

This is clearly a strain on resources, having to deal with regular disorder in the early hours that has been going on for a long period of time and not been adequately addressed in terms of managing licensing hours of the involved premises.

This statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature of witness:



Date: 31/08/2017 19:27